

## **REMARKS**

### **Summary of Amendment / Status of Claims**

Claims 1 – 18 were pending in the application. The foregoing amendment has canceled Claims 1 – 18 without prejudice. The foregoing amendment has also added new Claims 19 and 20. New Claim 19 is previous dependent Claim 4 rewritten in independent form. New Claim 20 is previous Claim 15 rewritten in independent form.

### **Summary of Office Action**

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

Claims 4 and 15 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Office Action states that Claims 4 and 15 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

New Claim 19 is previous dependent Claim 4 rewritten in independent form. Therefore Claim 19 is believed allowable.

New Claim 20 is previous dependent Claim 15 rewritten in independent form. Therefore, Claim 20 is believed allowable.

#### **Rejections**

Claims 1-3, 5-14 and 16-18 were rejected. Because these claims have been canceled, they are not discussed further herein.

## **CONCLUSION**

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims pending in the application meet the requirements for patentability and respectfully requests that the Examiner indicate the allowance of such claims.

Any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

If any additional fee is required, please charge Deposit Account Number 502456.

Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner may contact Applicant's representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

December 18, 2006  
Date

/Marlene Klein/  
Marlene Klein, Reg. No. 43,718  
Attorney for Applicant

Canon U.S.A. Inc., Intellectual Property Division  
15975 Alton Parkway  
Irvine, CA 92618-3731

Telephone: (949) 932-3132  
Fax: (949) 932-3560